

1. RESTRICTED HANDLING MESSAGES NOT BE DELIVERED DIRECTLY TO SPECIAL SOURCE CENTER.
2. DO NOT EXCEED 65 TYPEWRITTEN CHARACTERS PER LINE, INCLUDING SPACES.

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ORIG: GACARVER, JR.
UNIT: DCI/SAVA
EXT:
DATE: 11Jan71

RESTRICTED HANDLING

25X1

CLASSIFIED MESSAGE

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SECRET

25X1

(CLASSIFICATION) 476 369 (DATE AND TIME FILED)

PRIORITY

CITE HEADQUARTERS 070

TO

11 23 30z JAN 71

25X1

MHCW
1

1. AS YOU WELL AWARE AND HAVE REPORTED, MAJOR JOINT FARK-ARVN OPERATION (WITH US AIR SUPPORT) TO CLEAR ROUTE 4 THIN WAS SCHEDULED TO KICK OFF AROUND 10 JANUARY HAS BEEN SLIPPED AT LON NOL'S REQUEST UNTIL AROUND 21 JANUARY. LON NOL OSTENSIBLY REQUESTED POSTPONEMENT BECAUSE HE DISSATISFIED WITH DISPOSITION AND PERFORMANCE FARK TROOPS.

2. THIS OPERATION DISCUSSED EXTENSIVELY IN 25X1
11 JANUARY SESSION WITH DEPUTY SECDEF PACKARD (SUBBING FOR ABSENT LAIRD). PACKARD IN LOW KEY REQUESTED ~~ANY~~ ANY PRIVATE COMMENTS OR SPECULATION MIGHT HAVE ON 25X1
REAL RATIONALE BEHIND LON NOL'S POSTPONEMENT REQUEST SINCE STATED REASON SOUNDED MOST UNCONVINCING TO PACKARD (AND, FOR THAT MATTER, TO US). PACKARD TOLD THAT 25X1
COORDINATING OFFICERS

RELEASING OFFICER

SECRET

AUTHENTICATING OFFICER

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CONCERN ABOUT US SUPPORT COULD NOT BE VALID REASON SINCE, WITH PRESIDENTIAL BLESSING, SECRETARY LAIRD HAD APPROVED POSITIONING US GUNSHIPS ON STANDBY AND APPROVED LANDING OF C-130S IN CAMBODIA AT REAM.

3. PACKARD ALSO EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT TIMING RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ROUTE 4 CLEARING OPERATION AND LARGE SCALE OPERATION (SCHEDULED TO LAST TWO TO THREE MONTHS) ABOUT TO BE LAUNCHED IN AND THROUGH [] PLANTATION 25X1 AREA. LATTER SLATED TO KICK OFF ON 15 JANUARY. UNDER ORIGINAL SCENARIO, IT WOULD HAVE STARTED AFTER MAJOR ROUTE 4 CLEARING HAD COMMENCED AND, AT LEAST INITIALLY, US SUPPORT HAND IN [] WOULD HAVE BEEN PARTIALLY 25X1
OBSERVED
OBSERVED BY ASSISTANCE BEING RENDERED TO ~~XXXXXXXX~~ CLEARING OF ROUTE 4 IN ORDER TO PERMIT RESUMPTION OF SUPPLY FLOW FROM KOMPONG SOM TO PHNOM PENH. NOW, IF LATTER OPERATION

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SLIPS TO 21 JANUARY, [] AND US HAND THEREIN WILL RECEIVE
FULL FOCUS OF PRESS ATTENTION.

25X1

4. YOU ARE NOW REPEAT NOT BEING ASKED TO TAKE ANY
SOUNDINGS OR MAKE ANY ENQUIRIES. WOULD APPRECIATE ASAP
IN THIS CHANNEL, HOWEVER, YOUR PERSONAL OPINIONS ON LON
NOL'S REASONS PLUS ANY COMMENTS ON BRIEFINGS OR IMPRESSIONS
ADMIRAL MOORER MAY HAVE RECEIVED ON THIS TOPIC DURING
HIS PHNOM PENH VISIT.

END OF MESSAGE

25X1

William E. Nelson, C/FE

RELEASING OFFICER

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George A. Carver, Jr.
SAVA

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